

Development of Historical and Religious Places in Haryana

2054. SHRI RAMCHANDRA BENDA CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Haryana has sought financial assistance from the Union Government for development of historical and religious places in State:

(b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last two years and the current year so far;

(c) the financial assistance provided by the Union Government for the purpose during the above period; and

(d) the progress made by the State Government to develop the above places?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) to (d) The Department of Tourism has sanctioned Rs.9.36 lakhs to Government of Haryana for illumination of Suraj Kund monument and Kurukshetra Festival during 1995-96. During 1996-97 refurbishment of Ballabhgarh Fort has been identified for central financial assistance at an estimated cost of Rs.43.81 lakhs.

Private STD/ISD/PCO in Varanasi

2055. SHRI S.P. JAISWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of private STD, ISD and PCO booths in Varanasi;

(b) the number of applicants in the waiting list for allotment of booths as on November, 1996; and

(c) the time by which these are likely to be allotted the above booths?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) The number of private STD, ISD, PCO booths provided in Varanasi was 608 as on 30.11.96.

(b) The number of applicants in the waiting list was 863 as on 30.11.96.

(c) The applications in the waiting list will be cleared by December, 1997.

[English]

Helicopter Service in the North-Eastern State

2056. SHRI BHIM PRASAD DAHAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for not sanctioning helicopter service for Sikkim with 75% Central subsidy as done in the North-Eastern State;

(b) whether the Ministry has sanctioned requisite fund for construction of an air-strip in Sikkim; and

(c) if so, what is the total amount set apart for the project?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) Subsidy for Helicopter services has been sanctioned only for Arunachal Pradesh which has very poor road connections.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Cracks in Khajuraho Temples

2057. KUMARI UMA BHARATI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that cracks have developed in Khajuraho temples due to operation of air service from the airport situated near Khajuraho as a result of which the existence of these temples is in danger;

(b) whether the Government have received any representation from the department of Archaeological Survey of India in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have taken any action for the repair of these cracks developed in Khajuraho temples and to ensure that such cracks may not develop in future; and

(e) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Archaeological Survey of India has not reported development of any cracks in Khajuraho Temples due to operation of air services. However, the Archaeological Survey of India have intimated that air services over these temples result in vibrations which could be dangerous and requested that flights should not be made over these temples.

(d) and (e) Airports Authority of India regulations lay down the procedure to be followed by the flight crew to avoid any damage to the temples.

International Telecommunications Market

2058. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Telecommunications (DOT) propose the opening up of long distance and international telecommunications market in a phased manner to multilateral trade organisations;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) the details of present investment policy for allowing foreign equity in domestic telecom firms; and